

TOP TEN INVESTMENT SCAMS

1. Ponzi Schemes
2. Unlicensed Individuals Selling Securities
3. Unregistered Investment Products
4. Promissory Notes
5. Senior Investment Fraud
6. High-Yield Investments
7. Internet Fraud
8. Affinity Fraud
9. Variable Annuity Sales Practices
10. Oil & Gas Scams

SMART TIPS FOR EVERYONE

Don't let a criminal break into your home through your telephone line. They may sound polite and friendly but all they want is your money in their pocket!

Never tell anyone you live alone. Hang up on unsolicited telephone calls. If you are interested in an investment, never "act now," rather ask to have it mailed to you for review.

Never give your credit card number, bank account number or social security number over the telephone to someone who called you. Hang up if they claim they are calling to verify account numbers or other personal information.

Take notes on telephone calls. Write down the name of the person, company, date, time, telephone number, mailing address and details of any investment opportunity and call the West Virginia Securities Commission.

Don't be embarrassed to report that you have been approached with or victimized by investment fraud. Securities fraud is against the law in West Virginia, and by reporting possible violators you may save many in your community severe hardship.



As West Virginia State Auditor and Commissioner of Securities, I have pledged to increase awareness of investment predators. It is well known that our senior citizens are the most common victims of fraud.

The West Virginia Securities Commission has begun a new program specifically for our seniors. This new educational outreach program is being presented throughout the state. It is called Seniors Against Investment Fraud (SAIF). The goal of SAIF is to provide the necessary tools to assist you in spotting con artists, protecting your finances and knowing your investor rights.

If you are interested in bringing a free SAIF presentation to your civic group, senior organization or managed care facility, please contact the West Virginia Securities Commission toll free at 888-724-3982.

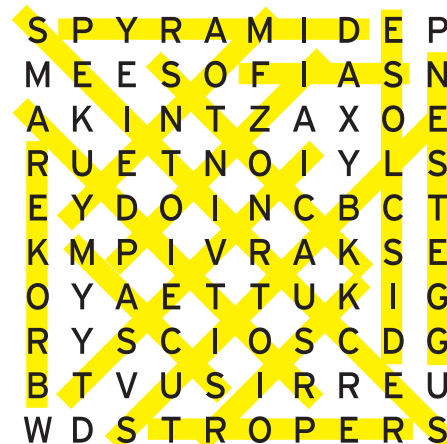
Glen B. Gainer III
West Virginia State Auditor
and Commissioner of Securities



www.wvsao.gov



SENIORS: PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST FRAUD



AUDITOR	BROKER	DISCLOSE
INVEST	MONEY	NESTEGG
PONZI	PYRAMID	REPORT
RISK	SAIF	SCAM
SECURITIES	STOCK	SUITABLE

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

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DOUBLE YOUR MONEY

You have been invited to join an investment club where members double their money every year!



BEWARE OF INVESTMENT SCAMS

Some investment opportunities may sound exciting but could be illegal scams. They are often offered to potential investors using glorious promises of doubling your money or guaranteed growth every month. These are probably not investments at all! They are most likely illegal "Ponzi" or pyramid schemes that could deplete your life savings. Most victims find that when these scams fall apart, their money is gone forever.

It is well known that scam artists count on the fact that most senior citizens have retirement savings. They will do their best to separate their victims from that money. They tell you whatever they can to get their foot in the door. Some favorite phrases of scam artists include double your money, secret investment system, church endorsed investment and guaranteed safe.



INVESTIGATE BEFORE YOU INVEST!

Stock Brokers, Broker/Dealers, Investment Advisers and their firms which do business in the state are required to register with the West Virginia Securities Commission, a Division of the State Auditor's Office. To qualify for registration, brokers are required to pass a series of tests proving their knowledge of investing regulations, which include various investor rights. The brokers and their firms are also required to register information on a secure national database. The West Virginia Securities Commission then makes all of that information available to citizens at no cost.

Investments by definition always include risks. It is important to check out the registration status of the broker and their firm by contacting the West Virginia Securities Commission. Always Remember: **NO Registration NO Sale**



IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE IT PROBABLY IS!

EASY STREET OR EASY MONEY?

It is often difficult to tell if a sales pitch is legitimate. Good salespeople are convincing and so are crooks! Beware of promises directing you to Easy Street.

REMEMBER IT'S PROBABLY A SCAM IF...

- A caller refuses to give you their registration information.
- A caller or investment offer claims no risk, double your money or huge profits in a short amount of time.
- An investment "tip" comes from "insider" or "secret" information.
- An investment offer comes from outside the United States.
- You find questionable transactions on your investment account statement.
- A caller refuses to send you information using the United States Postal Service.

**BE SAFE! CALL SAIF!
888-724-3982**